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SCHOOL REPORTS,

OF THE TOWN OF

MONTAGUE,

For the Year ending Feb. 22, 1862.

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GREENFIELD:
BY S. S. EASTMAN & COMPANY,
1862.

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TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

J. C. Bangs, in Cash account with the town of Montague, DR,

To Cash on hand, February 22d, 1861,	22 15
Received of State Treasurer, School Fund,	72 15
“ “ Warren Bardwell, town school fund,	73 52
“ “ R. N. Oakman, amount of tax bill,	5147 84
“ For use of Town Hall,	15 00
“ “ Dog licenses,	64 30
	<hr/>
	\$5394 96

CR,

By Paid County tax,	916 52
“ State tax,	219 00
“ J. Boynton, on Town house debt,	1000 00
“ Military expenses,	222 00
“ Incidental expenses of Ferries,	54 02
“ Selectmen's orders for Town expenses,	2840 79
“ Cash on hand Feb. 22, 1862,	142 63
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	\$5394 96

J. C. BANGS, Treasurer.

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

Paid town expenses and deficiency of last year,	2840 79
In the following classes—	
1st. Deficiency of last year,	124 84
2d. Schooling,	1336 05
3d. Extra Highway work,	222 47
4th. Services of Town officers.	248 21
5th. Interest on town debts,	799 33
6th. Miscellaneous expenses,	109 89
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	2840 79

1st. Deficiency :—

Theodore Ripley, abatement of tax,	24 53
Noadiah Clapp, " "	9 12
N. F. Henry, highway material,	25 00
I. Chenery " timber,	3 00
L. B. Marsh, " work,	2 75
Elisha Davis, " "	14 53
Noah Grover, " "	4 89
Carlos Burnham, " "	50
George H. Taft, " "	5 00
Jesse Andrews, " "	3 43
A. L. Taft, " "	5 62
C. Scott " "	1 58
Geo. A. Rowe, " "	2 00
C. Lynch, " "	1 94
B L & D W Goss, " railing,	19 45
Silas Burnham, services,	1 50
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	\$124 84

2d. Schooling,

Center District,	269 20
South " "	102 75
West " "	121 33
North West District,	111 50
City " "	167 42
Falls " Paid to City District,	10 05
Miller's River " "	60 75
Grout's Corner " "	137 26
Federal Street " "	152 73
Dry Hill " "	83 66
Chestnut Hill " "	91 40
Lafayette " "	28 00
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	\$1336 05

3d. Extra Highway work :—

W. W. Thayer, work on Highway,	8 75
Mr. Leach, Timber for bridge,	11 18
E. H. Marsh, plank,	12 56
J. Osgood, “	3 16
Z. Clapp, plank and railing,	36 02
Elijah Marsh, plank,	15 82
H. W. Rowe, timber and work,	12 38
C. P. Wright, powder,	1 63
Richards & Bangs, powder and fuse,	11 77
Z. Taylor, stone for highway,	67
E. Ripley, timber “ “	60
Leonard Glazier, work on “	62
Spaulding Glazier, “ “	3 32
J. H. Hartwell, “ “	75
E. F. Gunn, “ “	13 47
R. P. Anderson, “ “	4 80
J. R. Waters, “ “	59
P. Boutwell, “ “	2 20
Isaac Snell, “ “	1 10
Adams Ware, “ “	50
B. Davis, 6 10, C. White, 1 25,	7 35
H. Taylor, 6 00, O. Munn, 1 00,	7 00
G. Gilbert, 2 00, O. Potter, 91,	2 91
R. Brown, 10 00, J. H. Morse, 2 16,	12 16
R. Clapp, railing, stone and work,	6 75
S. Allen's Sons, for spikes for highway,	1 12
H. Graves, plank “ “	1 00
R. W. Webster, work “ “	10 00
S. W. Root, “ “ “	4 00
C. & H. C. Lawrence, timber and plank for highway,	28 29
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	\$222 47

4th. Services of Town Officers :—

J. C. Bangs, Treasurer,	15 00
J. C. Bangs, Town Clerk,	19 58
R. N. Oakman, Selectman and Overseer of Poor,	30 00
“ Assessor,	30 00
“ Superintending School Committee,	25 00
R. Clapp, Selectman and Overseer of Poor,	21 87
“ Assessor,	12 00
E. F. Gunn, Selectman and Overseer of Poor,	10 36
“ Assessor,	20 00
Rev. Eli Moody, Superintending School Committee,	25 00
E. L. Delano, Committee,	75

R. N. Oakman, Constable and Collector,	34 00
Edward Nettleton, “	4 65
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	\$248 21

5th. Interest on Town Debt :—

Savings Bank for Town Farm Debt,	378 00
R. N. Oakman, “ “ “ “	90 00
Elijah Bardwell, “ “ “	72 00
John Boynton, Town House Debt,	121 80
J. S. Ward, “ “ “	55 50
Warren Bardwell, School Fund,	6 52
Franklin County Bank and others,	33 51
R. N. Oakman, Road Debt,	24 00
Robert Brown, “ “	18 00
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	\$799 33

6th. Miscellaneous Expenses :—

Abatement of Taxes,	33 61
E. P. Goodell, one sheep, paid from Dog Fund,	2 00
R. P. Anderson, “ “ “ “ “ “	5 00
H. Ripley, “ “ “ “ “ “	5 00
S. S. Eastman & Co., printing and advertising,	26 25
L. Merriam, blank books and blanks,	5 59
Joseph Clapp, for driving hearse and tolling bell,	22 50
H. F. Root, surveying,	1 00
Stationary, tolls. postage expenses, &c.,	8 94
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	\$109 89

Current Indebtedness :—

Note to School Fund,	108 00
Due Center School District,	17 25
“ South “	1 01
“ West “	2 02
“ North West “	19 48
“ Falls “	23 45
“ Federal St. “	55 42
“ Chestnut Hill “	12 26
“ Lafayette, “	5 41
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	\$244 30

Resources :—

Cash in Treasury,	142 63
Due from School Fund,	123 35
“ for use of Town Hall,	5 00
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	\$270 98
Surplus,	26 68

We have finished a room on the lower floor of the Town Hall, at an expense of \$90, the money for which we have borrowed, and contemplate the appropriation of the rent to its payment.

LIQUOR AGENCY.

E. W. Hunter, in account with the Town of Montague,	Dr.
To cash received,	70 40
“ barrels, liquor, &c.,	28 10
“ cash for liquors sold,	93 66
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	\$192 16

CR.

By cash paid on Liquors and Freight,	118 77
“ “ “ for services of Agent,	25 00
“ “ on hand,	20 29
“ Liquors and barrels on hand,	68 81
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	\$232 87

E. W. HUNTER, Agent.

SCHOOL FUND.

Supervisors Account :—

Amount of Fund,	2881 30
Paid on the interest due previous to the last report,	33 00
Paid on the interest of the last year,	40 52
Due “ “ “ “	123 35

WARREN BARDWELL, Chairman.

NOTE.

The yearly interest on the fund, at 6 per cent., would amount to \$172 87, of which sum the Supervisors report \$163 35 paid and due, leaving a balance of \$9 52 to be accounted for. There was also reported one year ago as then due, \$87 00, of which sum there has been paid only \$33 00, leaving \$54 to be accounted for.

ESTIMATED NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1862.

Schooling,	1200 00
Town House Debt,	1000 00
Interest on Town Farm,	540 00
Interest on Town Debt,	200 00
Extra highway,	200 00
Contingencies,	360 00
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	\$3500 00

STATE AID TO FAMILIES OF VOLUNTEERS.

Paid to the following persons the sums set against their names,
up to March 1, 1862:

Mrs. Geo. C. Kaulback,	84 00
“ Charles P. White,	40 00
“ Lewis A. Drury,	33 00
“ Levi Brizzee,	20 00
“ Otis S. Caswell,	36 80
“ L. D. Phillips,	24 00
“ E. L. Goddard,	17 50
“ John O. Meilly,	12 00
“ Spear,	48 00
Widow Holden,	32 00
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	\$347 30

The following have received less than the maximum allowed by the State:—Mrs. Kaulback, \$15 00; Mrs. Spear, \$4 00; Mrs. White, \$11 00; Mrs. Drury, \$15 00; Mrs. Goddard, \$17 50.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN.

To Savings Bank, Town Farm Debt,	\$6300 00
“ R. N. Oakman, “ “ “	1500 00
“ Elijah Bardwell, “ “ “	1200 00
“ Robert Brown, Town House Debt,	1000 00
“ J. S. Ward, “ “ “	925 00
“ R. N. Oakman, Road Debt,	400 00
“ Robert Brown, “ “	300 00
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	\$11,625 00

TOWN FARM.

Superintendent's Account :—

DR.

To Cash received on settlement, Feb. 22, 1861,	10 06
“ “ for pork and pigs,	38 00
“ “ beef,	111 07
“ “ neat stock,	80 00
“ “ poultry,	12 50
“ “ hay and grain,	34 80
“ “ tobacco crop of 1860,	500 00
“ “ “ “ 1861,	1045 20
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	\$1831 63

CR.

By cash paid for neat stock,	236 20
“ farming tools,	25 84
“ house furniture,	6 03
“ repairs,	13 53
“ guano and other fertilizers,	64 06
“ borrowed last year.	200 00
“ help on farm,	205 52
“ support of poor out of Almshouse,	24 65
“ grass seed,	12 75
“ cloth and clothes for poor,	17 03
“ medicine and medical attendance,	1 37
“ blacksmith's bills,	4 84
“ grinding grain and sawing lumber,	28 45
“ grain and family stores,	104 24
“ tobacco boxes for two years and twine,	42 80
“ materials for building,	62 78
“ balance of Superintendent's salary,	311 75
“ on hand, Feb. 22, 1862,	469 79
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	\$1831 63

R. N. OAKMAN Superintendent.

INVENTORY

Of the personal property of the Town Farm, as estimated by
the Overseers, Feb. 15, 1862.

Live stock,	1050 00
Farming tools,	340 63
House furniture,	164 98
Hay and grain and straw,	571 00
Broom brush and seed,	55 00
Family stores, lumber, &c.,	167 00
Due from various persons,	8 50
Cash on hand,	469 79
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	\$2826 90
Inventory last year,	2532 44
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Gain,	\$294 46

The Town Farm debt remains the same as last year, amounting to nine thousand dollars, the interest on which the town has paid, to wit: \$540 00. The farm has supported the inmates at the Almshouse, paid all pauper bills belonging to the town, paid the Superintendent's salary, and all help, and incidental expenses, and saved, by the inventory, \$294 46, which sum taken from \$540, will leave \$245 54, the actual cost for support of poor. From this sum take \$24 65, which has been paid for the poor outside of the Almshouse, will leave \$220 89, the cost of supporting the inmates. We have furnished three hundred and nine weeks board at the almshouse, which makes the weekly cost of board, nursing, clothing and doctoring, about seventy-one cents, We have however built a barn, 50x25, finished and paid for, which is worth all it has cost to support the poor the past year, and of which no estimate in the inventory is made, so that, really, the farm has supported the paupers and paid all its own bills, including the interest—or, in other words, the \$540 which the town has paid, they have in the new barn and the increased amount of personal property.

Respectfully submitted,

R. N. OAKMAN,	}	Selectmen of Montague.
RICHARD CLAPP,		
E. F. GUNN,		

SCHOOL REPORT.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The law of our State makes it the duty of the School Committee annually to submit a statement of the condition of our district schools, accompanied with such remarks and suggestions as they may deem proper.

While our schools the past year, considered collectively, have been highly respectable, there has been nevertheless considerable diversity among them. This diversity has happened, principally, from the difference in the teachers in the art of government; from the comparative interest which parents have evidently taken in the intellectual and moral cultivation of their children; and from the different accommodations and arrangements of the school-rooms. As we go from school to school, it is surprising to notice the different success of teachers in their government. In one school, a single word from the teacher, kindly spoken, becomes a law to every scholar, which they cheerfully obey; and in another threats and punishments oft repeated barely suffice to keep the school in possible working order. We have so frequently noticed the change in our schools from orderly to disorderly and the reverse, that we have become convinced that much of the fault in those schools denominated "hard," is to be found with the teacher. Some of our teachers secure perfect government without apparent effort, while others have not a sufficient knowledge of youthful minds to enable them to govern a school and preserve order without causing the pupil to look upon them as tyrants who take pleasure in imposing arbitrary laws. Some teachers have so exalted an opinion of the importance of their vocation when they commence their schools, that they never presume to speak to their pupils in a familiar manner, but every word is

spoken in the tone of an oracle, and on the least provocation they

“Spoil the rod but do not spare the child.”

It is sometimes necessary to employ arbitrary means of obtaining obedience. If a scholar, after he has been told of the impropriety of a course of conduct, still persists in pursuing it, the teacher should command implicit obedience to his directions; but his demand should be tempered with discretion. Let him govern his scholars as if they were reasonable beings, recollecting that there is in the bosom of every man a disposition to rebel at the assumption of arbitrary authority, and that men are but children of larger growth. A good teacher will endeavor to engage the affections of his pupils. He will study their disposition carefully that he may learn what course of conduct on his part will be most likely to prove beneficial to them. We have seen the tear start from the eye of a boy who had endeavored in vain to commit a lesson and who was chidden for his failure, and we have thought that had the teacher better understood the disposition and capacity of that boy, he would have spared his feelings and sympathized with and encouraged him.

Is it not a fact that the inhabitants of this town devote less time and bestow less attention upon their schools than formerly? We fear you do not fully appreciate how much you can do to help the best of teachers. If instead of encouraging your children in fault-finding and tale-bearing you would make a special effort to secure their constant attendance, faithful obedience and persevering industry, by the exercise of your parental authority at home, and presence and word of encouragement in the school-room, you would have less occasion to complain of your teachers.

The Public Schools of Massachusetts are not a privilege which the citizens of the State enjoy, or not a privilege merely. It is by this system of public instruction that our fathers undertook to maintain our freedom. Herein lies our strength. An instructed people will always be free; an ignorant people seeks to be governed. And hence the necessity of public instruction. But more; ignorance is apt to ally itself with vice. Intelligence naturally seeks virtue as its ally. The ignorant man is to a certain extent a helpless man—educated he becomes the helper of others. The first step in fitting a child for life—in giving him usefulness, wealth, character, virtue, refinement of mind and soul, is to edu-

cate him. In the first place, then, it is the absolute right of the child born in this land of free institutions and free schools—his right and not merely his privilege—that he be educated as well as possible; not as well as may be convenient, but as well as under the circumstances he can be. The parent may not lightly keep his child from school. Trivial matters may not interfere. It is not right that matters of mere whim or mere family convenience should prevent the future man from being fitted for his manhood. It is the child's *right* to have *all* the advantages for education which are afforded, and it is therefore the parent's *duty* to see that the child enjoys his right fully. And Education is not a work confined to the proper training and cultivation of the intellect. All the faculties of our nature, physical, intellectual and moral, must be duly cultivated and properly directed in order to make a man a good and worthy citizen.

We notice with pleasure an increasing disposition on the part of many districts to re-engage the teacher who has once proved successful among them, even at an advanced price. This is greatly to be desired, for there is a vast difference between a short, good school, and a long, poor one. The former may be a source of benefit which cannot be estimated; the other by the habits to which it gives birth in the pupils and by its deadening, stultifying, idiot-making influence on their minds is a curse, and the longer it continues the more of a curse it becomes.

While visiting the several schools, we have not dared to shut our eyes to any class of faults which came under our observation. We have uniformly endeavored, faithfully and plainly to point out whatever in our opinion might be altered for the better. But we would not fail to notice the seeming kindness and even pleasure with which teachers have in every instance received our suggestions. This token of their confidence and the many others we have experienced have rendered our visits a peculiarly pleasing duty.

Another circumstance we mention with pride and pleasure is the welcome we have uniformly received from the school itself. In one of the Summer schools we had occasion to complain at our first visit, of their deficiency in spelling. Passing the place some two weeks after, at noon, almost the whole school came out and asked us to visit them again, for they had not missed a word in spelling since we were there. We now call your attention to a

review of the several schools particularly. The Chairman of your Committee has been absent from town nearly all the year and the labor has been about equally divided between the two remaining members.

C E N T E R D I S T R I C T .

Prudential Committee—Mr. S. S. Holton.

FIRST DEPARTMENT.—Summer, Fall and Winter Terms, Miss Sarah L. Davis of Ashby, Teacher.

Miss Davis manifested a deep interest in her work, and proved herself well qualified for the difficult task of teaching the Primary School. Her school was a very happy success.

SECOND DEPARTMENT.—Summer and Fall Terms, Miss S. Marion Upton of Ashby, Teacher.

Miss Upton proved herself a first class teacher. She was competent, experienced and efficient. She kept good order without trouble to herself. Her scholars made unusually good proficiency in their studies and the examination of her school at the close was perfectly satisfactory.

Winter Term—Miss Sarah A. Hunt of Sunderland, Teacher.

Miss Hunt was well qualified for the place. She had not had so much experience in teaching as Miss Upton, but succeeded well. Her pupils made good progress and showed clearly that they had had correct and thorough instruction.

F E D E R A L S T R E E T D I S T R I C T .

Prudential Committee—Mr. Edward L. Goddard.

Summer Term—Miss S. T. Bugbee of Meriden, N. H., Teacher.

The teacher labored faithfully. Her school made good progress, and at the closing examination appeared well.

Winter Term.—Miss Ellen Smith of Brookfield, Vt., Teacher.

“ “ Miss Maria Clapp of Montague, Assistant.

Miss Smith is a teacher of much experience. She was efficient; showing clearly that she went into her school to work. She was thorough in her method of instruction, and what her pupils learned under her tuition, they will not be soon likely to forget. Miss Clapp had had no experience in teaching, but proved a very good assistant to Miss Smith.

S O U T H D I S T R I C T .

Prudential Committee—Mr. F. E. Dickenson.

Summer Term—Miss Mary A. Richardson of Montague, Teacher.

Miss Richardson, by her success in teaching had before secured to herself the reputation of a *good teacher*. Of this reputation she lost nothing during the term. Her school appeared well during its progress and the closing examination was highly satisfactory.

Winter Term—Miss Sarah J. Knights of New Salem, Teacher.

Unfortunately for the school, Miss Knights met with opposition from the commencement of the term, from a portion of the district. This embarrassed her in her work; but still she labors on though the parents of two of the families—unwisely, as we think—took their children out of the school. The school has not yet closed and we cannot therefore make up a judgment from the closing examination; but from oft repeated visits to and careful observation of her school, we are unable to discover why, with the faithful co-operation of all the parents, the school might not have been a very successful one. It will not do *just yet* to demand that our school teachers shall be *perfect*. We shall be very likely for some time to come to employ those who will be liable to make mistakes, and if a teacher manifests a capacity and desire to do well, we think he should be encouraged and advised and assisted by every parent and person interested. Whatever else men may contend about, let every man emulate his neighbor in making sacrifices of feeling and prejudice and preference for the benefit of the Common School—one of the greatest blessings of a free people and one of the bulwarks of Freedom itself.

W E S T D I S T R I C T .

Prudential Committee—Mr. E. F. Gunn.

Summer Term—Miss Jennie L. Richardson of Montague, Teacher.

Miss Richardson had taught this school before, and always with excellent success, and we are sorry to be obliged to strike her *name* from our list of first rate teachers. But so it always is. Our best wish is that she may always make her own household as happy and home as pleasant and inviting as she ever has the school and the school room.

Winter Term—Mr. Arthur S. Lake of Loudon, Vt., Teacher.

Mr. Lake is an experienced and competent teacher. His school was well managed and the closing examination showed that the instruction had been thorough and that the proficiency had been good.

NORTH WEST DISTRICT.

Prudential Committee—Mr. Chauncey Loveland.

Summer Term—Miss Julia M. Andrews of Montague, Teacher.

Miss Andrews has taught in this district several terms and always with satisfactory success.

Winter term—Mr. Charles F. Damon of Westminster, Teacher.

There was not at the closing examination that readiness and promptness which would indicate the most thorough instruction. Although the school was by no means a failure, yet there was an apparent lack of energy on the part of the teacher and tact to inspire energetic effort in his pupils.

CITY DISTRICT.

Prudential Committee—Mr. N. F. Henry.

Summer Term—Miss Ellen M. Hosmer of Montague, Teacher.

Miss Hosmer is an experienced and successful teacher and managed this school with her usual ability.

Winter Term—Mr. John E. Howard of Westminster, Vt., Teacher.

This school is one of those which had not closed at the time of making up this Report. It has appeared when we have visited it as well as we could expect. The recitations were well conducted and the teacher manifested an interest in his work.

Probably few of the parents in this district realize what an inconvenient school room they have. It is altogether too small for the number of scholars and better fitted for an auction room than a school room. It has a narrow passage through the center and on each side several ranges of seats raised one above another for the accommodation of purchasers. At one extremity of the passage is a desk, making a remarkably convenient stand for the auctioneer, and by extending a table along the passage, goods of every description may be shown to every purchaser without giv-

ing him the trouble to rise from his seat. But our children are not exactly marketable commodities, and therefore this facility for inspection cannot be turned to a profitable account. On the contrary, the position of the scholars, sitting face to face, leads them to notice each other too much, every wandering eye meets its fellow and their mutual observations are an unavoidable hindrance to their studies. If the teacher steps to any quarter of the room he must necessarily leave some of his pupils behind him, and this gives opportunity for looks and gestures to pass between the scholars, which it is impossible for him to correct. There is no remedy for this district but an enlargement of the room and a change in the construction of the interior.

MILLER'S RIVER DISTRICT.

Prudential Committee—Mr. George Granger.

Summer Term—Miss Lizzie S. Clary of Deerfield, Teacher.

Fall Term—Miss Jennie L. Richardson of Montague, Teacher.

The house is a poor thing; the school a small one and the terms short; but the children seemed determined to make up in effort what they lacked in opportunity, and having good teachers made good progress.

GROUTS' CORNER DISTRICT.

Prudential Committee—Mr. Alden W. Grout.

Summer and Winter Terms—Miss Ellen L. Stone of Wendell, Teacher.

Miss Stone labored faithfully for the benefit of the scholars, but most of them were so irregular in their attendance in the summer term that she could not accomplish for them the good she would. When the berry season came, most of the scholars were sent to pick berries, indicating that the parents thought the acquisition of a few pence from the sale of berries of more importance than the storing of the children's minds with knowledge. As most of the scholars had left the school, it was closed without an examination. The Winter school is progressing more favorably, and we have no doubt will prove a very successful one.

DRY HILL DISTRICT.

Prudential Committee—Mr. A. B. Anderson.

Summer Term—Mrs. Mary A. Arnold of Montague, Teacher.

The scholars were not all so regular in their attendance as they should have been, but still the school made quite commendable progress and the examination was well sustained.

Winter Term—Mr. Seymour Rockwell of Montague, Teacher.

Mr. Rockwell kept a good school, as he is accustomed to do. The term was a short one but made up in quality what it lacked in quantity. Reading, good; spelling, excellent. Other recitations very well.

CHESTNUT HILL DISTRICT.

Prudential Committee—Philander Boutwell, Esq.

Summer and Winter Terms—Miss Susan H. Gould of Dover, Vt., Teacher.

Miss Gould is a teacher of considerable experience, having taught several terms in her native State. The school was interrupted both terms by sickness. She kept good order, and at the close of the Summer term, scholars appeared to have received decided benefit from her instructions. The Winter Term has not closed, but we have been exceedingly well pleased with the appearance of the school when we have visited it. The recitations were conducted with admirable skill and method, at once eliciting the interest and improvement of the pupil. We never witnessed a better conducted recitation in grammar or one in which a whole class seemed so much engaged, and this too where heretofore comparatively little attention has been given to that important branch of study.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT.

Prudential Committee—None.

Winter Term—Miss Lottie P. Edwards of Worthington, Teacher.

This is a very small school and has had but one term during the year. They are fortunate however in having an excellent school, the teacher being faithful and devoting her whole time and energy to the few scholars she has, and well they appear so far to have improved their opportunity.

New England owes much of her present prosperity and position to her system of free schools, and if every town and village and hamlet in our land had its school, free for all its children, we could hardly have had this wicked rebellion. We therefore commend to your fostering care our Common Schools. Furnish means with a liberal hand. Give your personal attention to their improvement and progress. Remember that it is for *our* children, who are soon to fill our places and determine the character and well being of our community.

R. N. OAKMAN, } Superintending
ELI MOODY. } School Committee.

